(b) if so, whether officials of both the countries have been seriously evaluating this proposal;

(c) whether this proposal was also discussed during U.S. Defence Secretary's visit to India in the month of June, 2002; and

(d) if so, whether any final decision in this regard has been taken ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Closure to training camps in PoK

215. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have taken up the issue of closure of Training Camps in PoK with the American officials; and

(b) the steps taken by Government to make sure that the build up to the elections in Jammu and Kashmir goes down peacefully ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) Yes, Sir.

The United States has conveyed to Government President Musharraf's pledge to the United States on an immediate, visible an permanent end to cross-border infiltration and his assurance to dismantle terrorist camps in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir.

(b) Steps taken by the Government in recent months to check infiltration and fight terrorists in Jammu and Kashmir, and its engagement with the international community in this regard, will continue to be in place till there is a permanent cessation of cross-border terrorism from Pakistan, which is necessary to ensure peaceful conduct of free and fair elections in Jammu and Kashmir.